

STATE GOVERNMENT NEWS

Published Monthly by
THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS



Vol. 4

April, 1961

No. 4

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA VOTE

After 161 years, citizens of the District of Columbia have received the right to vote in Presidential elections. The amendment gives the District of Columbia three electoral college votes. Approval by three-fourths of the states is required for adoption of an amendment.

As of March 29, the District of Columbia amendment had been approved by the following states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. The amendment was submitted to the states in June, 1960.

CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

Continuity of government measures have been approved by thirteen legislatures early in 1961. Those of Arizona, Nevada, North Dakota, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming submitted constitutional amendments for vote of the people, authorizing the legislature to provide for lines of succession and such other measures as may be necessary to insure continuity of government. Those of Arkansas, Indiana, Maine, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Tennessee, West Virginia and Wyoming have approved enactments providing for succession to public office or relocation of state and local governments.

North Dakota and West Virginia enacted measures providing for preservation of essential records. The Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization and the Council of State Governments developed the Continuity of Government measures.

LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

Idaho -- The Idaho legislature adjourned its Biennial session March 3. A general fund appropriation of \$88.3 million was approved -- nearly 17 per cent above the 1959-61 level of \$75.6 million. In addition, the legislature approved Governor Robert E. Smylie's proposal for a permanent building fund. It earmarked the state's \$10 per capita tax; increases in the beer and cigarette taxes; and portions of state sales, liquor profits and escheats for the fund, which will yield \$7.4 million for capital construction in the next fiscal period. The general appropriations and the building program will be balanced by using an anticipated \$7.3 million surplus in the general fund at the end of the current biennium and using all the general fund income expected in the next biennium.

Education accounts for the major part of increased expenditures. Under a new "weighted-classroom" foundation program, elementary and secondary schools will receive \$33 million in state support in the next biennium, compared with \$27 million in the current biennium. Smaller increases went to higher education, particularly to the University of Idaho, whose appropriation rose \$1.2 million over that of the last biennium, to \$9.8 million. This does not include \$5 million for new science and education buildings. Public health and welfare received most of the remainder of the increased spending.

The salary of the Governor was raised from \$12,500 to \$15,000 a year; of the Attorney General from \$9,000 to \$10,000; salaries of other major elected officials from \$8,000 to \$10,000; of Supreme Court Justices from \$12,500 to \$14,000; and of District Judges from \$10,500 to \$12,000.

The legislature created a new driver education program in the public schools, to be financed by increasing the driver license fee from \$2 to \$4 and requiring a \$3 laboratory fee from students taking the course. The

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minimum driving age was increased to 16, except that 14 and 15-year olds can continue to drive if they successfully complete the driver education course.

A program was established to provide medical care for the aged not on public assistance rolls. An Idaho Youth Conservation Corps was authorized to provide summer employment for youths, at an initial cost of \$61,000. The legislature set up a Children's Commission to study and recommend laws concerning child adoption, neglect and abuse, mentally handicapped and physically handicapped children, and juvenile delinquency.

Emergency unemployment benefits, authorized in 1959 for up to thirteen weeks beyond the normal twenty-six week period, were made operable on a monthly rather than a quarterly basis. The legislature authorized absentee voting in school bond elections.

The State Board of Health was authorized to adopt standards and regulations governing use of byproduct, source and nuclear materials to protect the public against hazards of ionizing radiation and atomic energy.

All meetings of boards and commissions of political jurisdictions were ordered open to the public. Defendants in criminal cases heard in city courts were given the right to trial by a six-man jury.

A new insurance code, drafted by a special commission set up by the 1959 legislature, was approved, and the legislature authorized a study to establish a Uniform Commercial Code.

Measures dealing with elections included provision that the names of sponsors appear on all printed campaign materials, with the responsibility on the printer rather than the candidate. A 1959 law requiring publication before primary and general elections of a voter pamphlet containing pictures of the candidates and information about them, partly financed by state funds, was repealed.

In other action the legislature passed a safety code and numbering system for small boats; and ratified the Columbia River Basin Interstate Compact, the Juvenile Compact, the Mental Health Compact and the proposed amendment to the United States Constitution giving residents of the District of Columbia the right to vote for President and Vice President.

Montana -- Montana's legislature adjourned its biennial session March 9 after appropriating \$74.3 million from general funds for 1961-63. This is about \$1.1 million less than similar appropriations for the current period, but \$3.4 million more than Governor Donald G. Nutter recommended in his budget.

General fund income during the biennium is expected to total \$78.1 million. Surplus of income over expenditures will permit reduction of an anticipated general fund deficit of \$6.6 million at the beginning of the next fiscal period to about \$2.7 million at its

end. About \$2 million of the surplus income is expected to be realized from an increase in fees collected by various state agencies, extension of the corporation tax to most cooperatives, and provisions for added income to the Water Conservation Board.

While appropriations for most state departments and agencies were maintained near current levels, or reduced, state assistance to elementary and secondary education was increased by \$3.4 million, to \$20.4 million.

Funds for the state's six-unit university system were reduced by nearly \$1 million, to \$25.2 million. Following the Governor's recommendations, the legislature made no provision for capital construction during the biennium.

Changes in governmental organization and operation provide that the Office of Controller serves at the Governor's pleasure; transfer responsibility for approving excess expenditures during the first year of a biennium from the Board of Examiners to the Governor; and transfer post audit of custodial institutions and university units from the Controller to the State Examiner.

The State House of Representatives was reapportioned. It will continue to have 94 members, but the two largest counties gain three seats for a total of nine each; the third largest county is reduced from seven to five seats; all other counties have one seat each.

The legislature authorized the Highway Patrol to establish daylight speed limits on open highways outside incorporated cities. The driver license fee was raised from \$3 to \$4 to finance color photographs of drivers on licenses. Sixty-day revocation of the license of a driver who forfeits bail on a citation for driving while intoxicated was made mandatory. A second conviction within five years of driving while intoxicated will result in mandatory suspension of license for one year.

Provision was made for special training of educable retarded children. Unemployment compensation benefits were changed to eliminate seasonal and marginal workers from entitlements, and weekly benefits for qualifying workers were increased. The present

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THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

1313 East Sixtieth Street, Chicago 37, Illinois

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\$5 per year

Second class postage paid at
Chicago, Illinois

\$10-\$32 range in compensation was raised to \$15-\$34, and the benefit period was increased from twenty-two to twenty-six weeks. Maximum workmen's disability compensation was raised from \$42.50 to \$50 a week.

Measures affecting business included a law effective July 1, 1962, to require stores using trading stamps to obtain an annual \$100 license and pay a 2 per cent tax on gross receipts. New industries coming into the state will be taxed on only 7 per cent of their true value, instead of the normal 30 per cent, during their first three years of operation. Mining companies were given power of eminent domain to acquire surface property for open-pit mining. A companion measure guarantees the rights and just compensation of property owners when their land is taken by condemnation action.

In other enactments, the legislature established an underground water code to regulate conservation and development; ratified the Columbia Interstate Compact; ratified the amendment to the United States Constitution giving residents of the District of Columbia the right to vote for President and Vice President; and approved amendments to the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act.

Two proposed constitutional amendments were referred to the voters. One would eliminate the constitutional status of justice courts, to permit their reorganization by the legislature. The other would increase terms of county attorneys from 2 to 4 years.

New Mexico -- The New Mexico legislature ended its biennial session March 11 after passing a record general appropriations bill of \$90 million for 1961-63, an increase of more than 20 per cent over the \$71 million allocated for like purposes in the current biennium. Actual spending in the current fiscal year has been reduced \$2.4 million below the original appropriation of \$39 million because revenues are not up to expectations.

At the time of this writing many of the measures voted by the 1961 legislature awaited action by the Governor.

A most vexing problem facing the legislators was the declining revenue of public schools. (*State Government News*, December, 1960.) The legislature approved a series of tax changes expected to provide an additional \$12.6 million in revenues, of which \$7.3 million would go to the schools. It transferred \$1.4 million from the current school fund to be distributed on a basis of need to the schools in the current year, and authorized schools to spend from the school fund on a current basis in 1961-62.

Most of the new revenue is provided for by three measures. One is expected to raise \$4.5 million by increasing the income tax 50 per cent and requiring withholding by

employers, starting in April, on the basis of schedules to be furnished by the State Bureau of Revenue. Another \$3.7 million is anticipated by removing from the sales and compensating tax exemptions formerly enjoyed by state and local governments and nonprofit organizations. A third measure raises the cigarette tax from 5 to 8 cents a pack, to bring in \$2.7 million.

Most of the balance of the new revenue is to come from increases in taxes on mineral severances, franchises, insurance premiums and parimutuel betting, and part of an increase from \$2 to \$3.25 in two-year driver license fees.

The legislature approved a \$1 million bond issue, to be repaid from an increase in the statewide ad valorem tax, as New Mexico's share in a \$2.3 million joint federal-state program for construction of new National Guard armories. Bonds for defense purposes do not require voter approval.

Public officials and employees were prohibited from receiving, and purchasers or sellers forbidden to offer, anything of value in connection with public sales and purchases, under penalty of fine or jail sentence.

A retirement program for legislators was established.

Among constitutional amendments submitted by the legislature for vote of the people are measures that would establish four-year terms for elected state and county officials and annual sessions of the legislature, and would permit legislators to set their own pay. One amendment would dissolve the Public Service Commission and transfer its functions to the State Corporation Commission, whose members would be appointed by the Governor rather than elected as at present. Another would remove the Auditor from the list of elected state officials and make him an appointee of the legislature, to check on the use of appropriations. Still another would permit legislators to serve on the State Finance Board, the Board of Educational Finance and the proposed new Public School Finance Board.

As the result of a legislative interim judicial study, a series of measures were approved to effect firmer state control over fiscal operations of the office of Justice of the Peace.

New regulatory laws dealing with mine safety were approved, including injunctive powers accorded to the state mining inspector, creation of a state mining advisory board, and establishment of standards for timbering and other underground supports. A revised Commercial Code was passed, embracing some ten state uniform laws in the business field.

Legislation pertaining to highways included a bill restricting billboards on New Mexico's portion of the interstate highway system. The measure is designed to make the state eligible for additional federal matching funds.

In other action, the legislature ratified the proposed amendment to the United States Constitution giving residents of the District of Columbia the right to vote for President and Vice President.

Utah -- The Utah legislature closed its biennial session March 10 with appropriations from the general fund totaling \$102.7 million for 1961-63. This is almost 12 per cent above anticipated outlays of \$92 million for comparable purposes in the current biennium. A surplus of \$4 million is anticipated in the general fund at the end of the current fiscal period. Income for the next biennium is estimated at between \$103 million and \$105 million.

Generally holding the line on taxes and most agency appropriations, the legislature raised the sales tax from 2 to 2-1/2 cents to provide \$15 million in new income -- most of it for schools. About \$10 million will go to raise the minimum support program from \$5,150 to \$5,400 per classroom unit, with supplemental aid up to \$775 per unit in local districts meeting specified financial obligations. Another \$4.1 million of the sales tax increase is allocated for assistance in school construction. These grants are in addition to \$12.5 million from the general fund to help finance the school foundation program.

Included in the school program, among other items, are allocations of \$800,000 to improve the school retirement program, \$120,000 for educational research and \$90,000 to expand transmission facilities of the educational television station at the University of Utah.

Other major financial measures appropriate \$10.4 million for the state building program and authorize borrowing up to \$4.2 million from reserves and earmarked funds for capital construction. The State Building Board was authorized to enter contracts for construction of the University of Utah Medical Center before all funds for the project are available.

The legislature established a State Council of Criminal Justice to serve as a continuing study and coordinating agency in the administration of criminal justice. Annual salaries of State Supreme Court Justices and District Court Judges were raised to \$13,200 and \$11,000 respectively. Other salary raises included those of the Governor, from \$12,000 to \$13,500; of the Secretary of State, from \$9,400 to \$10,500; of the Attorney General, from \$10,000 to \$11,000; and of the Treasurer and Auditor, from \$7,000 to \$8,000. Legislators were permitted to claim mileage allowances for up to one round trip home per week during sessions, and a proposed constitutional amendment was passed, subject to voter approval, permitting increases in legislative salaries from \$500 to \$1,200 a year and raising expense payments from \$5 to \$10 a day.

A point system was authorized as the basis for revocation of driver licenses. Financial responsibility requirements were raised to \$10,000 for injury or death of one person, \$20,000 for two or more persons, and \$5,000 for property damage. The driver license fee was increased from \$2 to \$3 for an original license, and from \$1 to \$2 for renewal; the renewal period was reduced from

five to three years. A constitutional amendment was submitted to the voters to prohibit diversion of motor vehicle user taxes to non-highway purposes.

The legislature authorized establishment of juvenile detention districts, with the State Welfare Department designated as supervising agency to set minimum standards for facilities and administer state aid for up to 50 per cent of cost. It provided for establishment of local mental health clinics and advisory councils to operate under the supervision and with the cooperation of the State Health Department. Two new permanent agencies were established -- a Council on Aging and a Committee on Children and Youth. State matching funds totaling \$1,250,000 were authorized to permit state participation in the federally assisted program of medical care for the aged.

Other measures provided for a new savings and loan act, revised the insurance and the business corporation codes, and strengthened the state securities act. The Columbia River Basin Interstate Compact was ratified, as was the proposed amendment to the United States Constitution giving the franchise in Presidential elections to residents of the District of Columbia.

HIGHWAYS, TRAFFIC SAFETY

Mandatory Jail Sentence -- The Arkansas legislature has enacted a law requiring ten-day jail sentences for persons operating motor vehicles after suspension or revocation of their drivers' licenses. The act specifies that no court shall have authority to suspend the mandatory ten-day sentence.

Accident Compensation Study -- Governor Edmund G. Brown of California has announced plans for a pilot study of methods of compensating victims of automobile accidents. The study will be conducted by the University of California with funds provided by a private foundation.

Preliminary work will involve gathering a wide range of statistics not now available in any state on highway accident compensation. The Governor expressed hope that the pilot study will show enough promise to justify a full study.

The study will be made by Stanley Weigel, an attorney appointed by the Governor in 1959 to consider the possibility of creating a state automobile accident commission similar to the State Industrial Accident Commission. Mr. Weigel will be joined in the survey by two professors at the University of California, John W. Cowie, a specialist in insurance law, and Malcolm Davisson of the Business Administration School.

Highway Program -- The Alabama Highway Department has initiated a program of roadside planting. It has employed a landscape engi-

neer to supervise highway landscaping throughout the state. A two-day course in landscaping, erosion control and selective clearing has been set up at Auburn University for state highway engineers. The course will stress erosion and safety factors involved in landscape planting. Purpose of the program is to reduce the cost of maintenance by preventing erosion, provide traffic guides for indicating curves or other highway changes, accent danger areas, and reduce headlight glare from opposing traffic.

TAX, ASSESSMENT LAWS

The New Jersey legislature has approved a bill assuring 150,000 New Jersey residents employed in New York the same state income tax deductions granted to New York residents. The measure implements an amendment to the state income tax law approved earlier this year by New York's legislature.

The New Jersey law directs the State Treasurer to order employers in the state to withhold the New York income tax from the wages of about 70,000 New York residents employed in New Jersey. It also authorizes the Treasurer to give New York tax officials any data they may seek concerning New Yorkers working in New Jersey.

The equal deduction provision is expected to save New Jersey commuters about \$5 million per year. It will go into effect with the filing of tax returns on 1961 income. New York, on the other hand, expects to gain about \$3 million a year from tax-delinquent residents who work in New Jersey.

In other action the legislature granted an \$800 annual property assessment exemption to persons at least 65 years old whose annual incomes do not exceed \$5,000. The measure implements a state constitutional amendment approved by the voters last November.

HEALTH, WELFARE

Mine Inspection Program -- The Colorado legislature has passed a bill requested by Governor Stephen L. R. McNichols setting up an inspection program to reduce dangers of radon gas to uranium miners. The measure calls for a staff of four inspectors headed by an engineer operating under the direction of the Bureau of Mines. Supported by mine operators and miners, adoption of the inspection program followed a meeting of last December attended by officials of the uranium mining states and the federal government to discuss preliminary findings on new health hazards in the uranium mining industry. Participants explored means for more effective control.

Pension Regulations -- The Alabama Department of Pensions and Security recently modified its regulations to benefit old-age pensioners

owning small pieces of property in addition to homesteads. Under the new regulations pensioners are no longer required to sell their property -- homesteads excepted -- as a condition for getting a state pension.

The new rules require that such property be "utilized" rather than sold. It is expected that the regulations will eliminate hardship cases by treating pieces of property as investments for the future.

The change was requested by Governor John Patterson, Chairman of the State Board of Pensions and Security, which writes the rules governing state pensions. The board's previous policy required an attempt to sell all real property of the pensioner other than homestead, at fair market value.

MENTAL HEALTH WORK-STUDY PROGRAMS

California has become the third western state to institute a work-study program in mental health institutions for university undergraduate and graduate students. In 1960, Colorado and Washington initiated a summer work-study program in mental health for university students to arouse new interest in the field as an occupational career. (State Government News, April, 1960.)

Each of the programs combines two weeks of study with eight weeks of paid work in mental health institutions, for which university credits are received. Courses will be offered at the University of Colorado, the University of the Pacific in California and the University of Washington.

Cooperating with the universities are the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, the Western Council of Mental Health Training and Research, the California Department of Mental Hygiene, the Colorado Department of Institutions, the Oregon Board of Control and the Washington Department of Institutions.

Faculty members from New Mexico Highlands University and the University of Utah will participate in Colorado's program this year in anticipation of instituting similar programs in their states in 1962.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The State of New Jersey and the New Jersey Power and Light Company, a private utility company, have completed a land exchange contract. The utility will release to the state more than 4,000 acres of recreational land and water supply facilities. In return it will receive 700 acres of virtually inaccessible wasteland.

Salvatore A. Bontempo, Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Economic Development, signed the contract for the state. He said the utility would be able to develop facilities on its new land to

help serve the expanding population. The state in turn, acquires valuable open space for the recreational needs of its citizens.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

The Tennessee legislature has approved a bill establishing an experimental forestry camp for selected juvenile offenders. The first camp to be set up will be a minimum security facility. Juvenile offenders to be placed in the camp will be selected by a committee of state officials. Education at the camp will be vocational; academic education will continue at the state training school. In future, however, academic courses may be offered at the forestry camp.

THE COURTS

To expedite the processing of cases, the Chief Justice of New Jersey has ordered all trial courts in the state to open one-half hour earlier than before. Under the new rule the trial courts, with the exception of municipal courts, will start operating at 9:30 a.m. instead of 10:00. The additional half hour per day is expected to permit courts to dispose of more cases and thus reduce the time required for cases to reach trial.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Tennessee legislature has passed a bill regulating retail installment sales contracts other than those for motor vehicles. The measure provides that charges on conditional sales contracts may not exceed \$10 per \$100 a year if the principle balance is \$500 or less. The rate of charges declines for larger balances.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Development Plan -- Governor William F. Quinn has outlined a twenty year, \$703 million program of land and economic development for Hawaii.

The plan proposes a public works program to include \$412 million for highways, \$37 million for airports, \$70.5 million for harbors, \$13 million for technical and vocational schools, \$13 million for libraries, \$14.7 million for public health centers and state hospitals, \$8.2 million for prisons, \$37.8 million for state office buildings, \$24.7 million for state parks, and \$1.7 million for armories.

Other major recommendations urge establishment of a state zoning commission; an increase in promotional spending for tourism, local products and investment opportunities; and an adequate inter-island ferry system. The zoning commission would be empowered to

designate major land-use areas and provide for protection of land needed for industrial, agricultural and tourist use. Three types of ferries were proposed for the inter-island system -- a conventional sea ferry, an air freight-passenger service, and a hydrofoil sea ferry.

Cost of the program to the state is expected to be \$439 million. The remainder would be in federal aid. The program is subject to approval by the legislature.

The plan envisions a growth in population to 1,258,000 by 1980 -- about double the present figure. It is geared to this expected growth and accompanying expansion of economic development.

The State Planning Office, the Department of Transportation and private consultants prepared the plan. Related studies were conducted on transportation and economic development programs.

Industrial Financing Committee -- Governor Otto Kerner of Illinois has established a committee to study and prepare legislation to provide communities in distressed areas of the state with tools for industrial financing and growth.

Named to the committee are representatives from business, transportation, and education, to be assisted by Victor de Grazia, State Superintendent of Industrial Planning and Development. Areas of study for the growth include problems of municipal financing for industrial development and problems of one-industry cities. The committee hopes to find means for broadening the economic base of one-industry cities to prevent unemployment.

Ohio Reports -- The Ohio Department of Industrial and Economic Development recently published two reports with facts and figures on the state's population and basic economic data.

Statistical Abstract of Ohio, 1960, contains nineteen sections covering such topics as education in the state, parks and recreation, agriculture, law enforcement, manufacturing, construction and trade, motor vehicles and highways, transportation, communication and public utilities. Purpose of the abstract is to assist development organizations, Chamber of Commerce officials, students and research personnel and all others interested in planning.

Ohio Population, Growth and Distribution was published by the department in cooperation with Miami University at Oxford, Ohio. The report is intended for future planners in the fields of education, industry and commerce. Data presented compare the population of the state with other states and trace population growth from 1810 to 1960. The report also indicates population growth in the counties and population density in the state.

Economic Development Atlas -- The West Virginia Economic Development Agency has published the second in an economic statistical series, West Virginia Economic Atlas. The first report covered population changes, income, transportation and electrical power facilities. The present survey is concerned with natural resources such as lumber production, stream flow, oil and gas fields, coal mines and limestone quarries.

Purpose of the atlas is to assist the state's operating agencies concerned with economic planning and development. The studies are available to interested groups on request to the Economic Development Agency, 1416 Kanawha Boulevard, Charleston, West Virginia.

UNEMPLOYMENT MEASURES

The California legislature has passed three emergency, anti-recession measures requested by Governor Edmund G. Brown.

The first of the bills appropriated \$30 million for school construction, much of it in areas of chronic unemployment. A second bill extended unemployment benefits for up to thirteen weeks to some 55,000 persons who previously had exhausted their eligibility claims.

The third permits jobless workers to draw up to \$44 a week for a maximum of twenty-six weeks in unemployment benefits while attending school to learn new skills. This act, which altered the old requirement that unemployment benefits be limited to persons actively seeking work, was designed to provide immediate job retraining to workers displaced by automation.

REORGANIZATION PROPOSALS

Nebraska Committee on Reorganization -- A Committee on State Government Reorganization of the Nebraska Legislative Council has submitted a report with recommendations to the legislature. The committee was authorized by the 1959 legislature to study the functions and duties of executive or administrative departments and to make recommendations for efficiency and economy.

Its report recommends that the responsibility for administering and collecting the motor vehicle fuels tax, the special fuels tax, the cigarette tax and the severance tax be transferred from the Department of Agriculture and Inspection to the State Tax Commissioner. Other recommendations are for establishment of a central data processing department; enactment of a records management act; and establishment of a State Financial Board charged with investment of the state retirement funds, temporary reserve funds and current operating funds of the state.

The committee urged the legislature to consider continuing the council study.

Florida Proposal -- The Government Organization Committee of the Florida Legislative Council has endorsed a proposal to consolidate all state functions dealing with motor vehicles and highway use under a single state department. Under the proposal the existing Motor Vehicle Commission would be transferred to the Department of Public Safety, which would have five divisions: Administration, Registration and Title, Driver Licensing, Financial Responsibility, and Enforcement.

BOATING OFFICIALS

Boating law administrators of the Mid-Atlantic States met in Annapolis, Maryland, March 7, to discuss mutual problems and the advisability of forming a permanent regional group for further discussions. They voted to form a permanent organization and to meet at the call of Temporary Chairman, William T. Matthews, Jr., Director of Boating and Recreation, Tidewaters Fisheries Commission, Maryland.

Representatives from Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia were present. Others attending included officers of the United States Coast Guard and a representative of the Council of State Governments.

Boat numbering, enforcement of safety requirements, operation of advisory committees, utilization of markers, and interstate and federal-state cooperation were among the subjects discussed.

LEGISLATIVE PROCESSES, PROCEDURES

Research Council Established -- At the recently adjourned Wyoming biennial session the legislature set up a sixteen-member permanent Legislative Council.

The council consists of eight Senators and eight members of the House of Representatives. It was assigned seven research projects for the biennium. The legislature appropriated \$100,000 for it.

Functions of the council include collecting information concerning the government and general welfare of the state, examining the effects of previously enacted statutes and recommending amendments thereto. It is directed to deal with issues of public policy and questions of statewide interest, and to prepare a legislative program in the form of bills, resolutions and reports.

The council is charged specifically with studying the highway laws, including highway safety; the employment security law, with emphasis on labor-management relations; the state school foundation program; the game and fish laws; the workmen's compensation laws, water resources; and liquor laws.

Industrial, Redistricting Committees -- The Maine legislature recently created two new

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committees -- a Joint Committee on Industrial and Recreational Development, which will report on legislation in that field; and a Committee on Constitutional State Reapportionment and Congressional Redistricting.

The redistricting committee will study methods for dividing the state into two congressional districts. Maine now has three seats in Congress. The committee is also expected to make recommendations concerning the decennial redistribution of seats in the Maine House of Representatives according to population.

ARIZONA -- CALIFORNIA BORDER

Following eight years of negotiations, Arizona and California officials, at a meeting on February 27, settled their 244 miles of common border along the Colorado River. Findings of boundary commissions of the two states have been forwarded to the state legislatures for approval. After the legislatures act the agreement will be sent to Congress for ratification.

The commissions were set up to settle boundary questions raised by the Colorado River's changing course, which makes the border obscure. In a joint statement after

the meeting, F. J. Hortig of Los Angeles, Chairman of the California Commission, and Wayne Akin of Phoenix, Chairman of the Arizona Commission, said the only major change was a 4,000 acre area north of Yuma, Arizona.

This area, called Yuma Island, will be divided approximately in half. The border will be as far as one and a half miles southwest of the river in this spot. The remainder of the boundary will be the center of the Colorado River.

TELEVISION BOOSTER FACILITIES

The 1961 Montana legislature has enacted a law permitting counties to construct television booster facilities in rural areas indicating they desire better TV reception. Utah's legislature has authorized local governments to license television receiving sets to raise revenues in areas where special facilities are required to make reception possible. The Colorado legislature in 1960 passed a law which permitted spending of public funds for television booster stations to bring reception to rural communities outside the range of present stations and having no privately-operated relay system.

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